Term 4 begins and all of a sudden time disappears and before you know it we are preparing in earnest for graduation, after just completing our most successful transition program. The Mainstream and Steiner Year 6 children are practising their graduation song as well as learning a dance to perform for parents on the night. This year will be our best graduation ever with live music, new venue concluding with watching a DVD of Primary School highlights to share with parents and carers.

Our Steiner students have a special Celebration as they move from Class 6 to Secondary School which is a significant rite of passage that involves a spiral walk, speeches to staff and parents and the gifting of the golden apples (which represents them taking the fruits of their Primary School learning on the next step of their journey.

Students in Year 3/4 had a most enjoyable time at camp a couple of weeks ago. They had a ball on the high swing, the flying fox and all the other very exciting activities they had on offer. Thank you to all the staff for giving their time to make this such a fantastic experience. Pictures and stories will be printed in the 'Park Post.'

Students in Years 3/4 enjoyed their time sailing on Tuesday. The weather started out beautifully, however the little drops of rain didn’t stifle their enthusiasm. I encourage you to read their interesting writings in the student newsletter ‘The Park Post.’

In the next couple of weeks all children will have an opportunity to spend time at the beach and at the pool for swimming lessons. Let’s hope the weather is kind.

Every Monday our students, along with students from Woodlands, Somerville Rise, Kingsley Park, Rosebud and Frankston Heights Primary Schools takes turns to host at Kidz Hour at 12 midday. Kidz Hour is an informative program where students discuss school activities, events and topical issues.

Last week some of our students joined another 30 to record a Christmas CD at RPP FM local radio station. They recorded a number of traditional and modern Christmas Carols including Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer, Santa Claus is Coming to Town and Jingle Bell Rock for the CD. The Christmas CD will be available for a $10 donation next week from our school. Funds raised will be directed to the State Schools’ Relief charitable organisation that assists needy students attending government schools in Victoria with school clothing and footwear.
Hey there everyone!
As I have just celebrated a birthday on Monday (one less than the big ONE next year….I’ll let you figure out how old I’ll be!!!!), I was reflecting on my life and the path that the journey has taken me. Throughout my life, there have been some amazing highs and heartbreaking lows, but with each experience, each mistake and each success, there has been a willingness to be open to learning and growth, which hopefully leads to maturity. Life and all it encompasses is definitely a journey isn’t it? So, whatever journey you are on, whether it be grief, self worth or self discovery, I hope that you can see them as seasons of growth. Life is there to be lived and learnt from, not avoided because we think we may fail or make mistakes. I found this little gem, hope you are encouraged by it! Can I also take this opportunity to wish you all and your family a very blessed festive season and a happy, healthy and joyful 2014!
Your Happy Chappy,
Trish

THE JOURNEY OF LIFE

Chapter 1
I walked down the street.
I fell into a hole. It was a very deep and nasty hole.
It took me a long time to find my way out, and it was painful, but eventually I did.

Chapter 2
I walked down the street.
I fell into another hole.
I couldn’t believe this had happened to me again.
With difficulty, I climbed out again.

Chapter 3
I walked down the street.
I saw another hole and I slipped in, but I got out immediately.

Chapter 4
I walked down the street.
There was a hole there.
I walked around it.

Chapter 5
I walked down another street.
BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL  OFFER CLOSES 4 pm, 20th. DECEMBER 2013. Booking and enrolment forms are available at the OFFICE from 9th. December, 2013. Please complete and hand in with your Booking fee of $20.00. Booking Fee fully refundable. Alternatively, you may visit the SHERPA OSHC Room Mon to Friday 3 pm to 6 pm to complete your forms. See Meagan or Deborah.

HOLIDAYS- THAT TIME AGAIN-
Children- what a great way to enjoy your time, actively mixing with other children and friends, AND HAVING A WONDERFUL TIME WITH:
*Out door sport & fun games  
*Cooking -Baking and eating  
*Creating- Art & Craft and play acting  
*Imaginative travel to the Zoo and Outer Space or your favourite hideaway  
*Donning on the Robes of Mad Scientists to actually experiment---

AND MUCH MUCH MORE!!!
Costs  $6.50 a day with lunch and afternoon snack
$ 5.50 a day without lunch or morning snack. (but breakfast and afternoon snack provided)
Breakfast provided from 7 am to 8 am  Afternoon Snack and fresh fruit provided.

PLACES ARE LIMITED. PLEASE BOOK EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT.
Please email your enquiries to vic@sherpa-kids.com.au or phone Sally on 0426247651 or call Jeanette at the school office on 5975 4011.

Parents please be aware that the disabled car park must be kept clear at all times unless you display a permit.

GRADE 6 GRADUATION
At Mornington Golf Club
Thursday 12th December, 2013
5.45pm. Student cost $20.00
Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA):
The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided by the Victorian Government to lower-income families to help with education-related costs.

If you have a child under 16, and you hold a valid Health Care Card, Pension Card, or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible to receive the EMA. The allowance is paid in two instalments, one in March and one in August.

The payment is intended to assist with education-related costs such as; uniforms, excursions, textbooks, and stationery. You can elect to have your EMA paid in one of the following ways:

- Paid by direct deposit (Electronic Funds Transfer) into your own nominated bank account; or
- Paid to the school to be held as credit which you can use towards education expenses; or
- Paid by cheque which will be posted to the school for collection.

In 2014, the annual EMA amount per student is:

- $200 for prep students
- $150 for students in years 1 – 6.
- $300 for year 7 students
- $250 for students in year 8 – until age 16*.

* A pro-rata amount is payable for students turning 16 in 2014.

How to Apply: Contact the school office to obtain an EMA application form.

Closing Date: You need to obtain an EMA application form from the school office and return by 28 February 2014.

For more information about the EMA, visit http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/financial/Pages/default.aspx

HATS

Many students are coming to school without a hat. Please check at home in school bags etc. for missing hats. Students will be asked to play under cover during recess and lunch if they do not have a hat. As we are a Sun Smart School hats are compulsory for this term.
A Marvellous Christmas at Mornington Park

Thursday 19th December at 5pm

Bring your family and friends for a Christmas sing-a-long at Mornington Park Primary School. Each class will be performing on stage with professional musicians and members of our school community. Come dressed up in all our Christmas glory, wearing red and green and bring your singing voices!

Sausage sizzle and cold drinks will be available from 4:30. Christmas Carols will commence at 5pm. Raffle tickets will be available on the
Uniform:
Thank you to those families who have sent uniform to school that their child has outgrown. Your support is much appreciated.

State Schools Relief:
I have just been informed that SSR has entered into a partnership with OPSM and is able to supply prescription spectacles to students who need them at no cost to families who are holders of current Health Care Cards. Please see Val (Social Worker) if you need more information about this service.

Corowa Court – Aged Care Residential Facility:
Each week, six different students from Years 5 and 6 Mainstream and Steiner have visited Corowa Court on a Monday, during their lunchtime. They have enjoyed playing indoor golf with the residents. On Monday 16th December at 10.15am, 8 residents from Corowa Court will visit Mornington Park Primary School where they will learn what school is like in 2013 as opposed to when they went to school 80 years ago! Electronic whiteboards, computers, iPads, and other digital equipment had not been invented. Children sat in rows and did not speak unless they were spoken to. Students will prepare morning tea for them before the residents head home.

Memorial Service at Corowa Court. On 3rd December, 7 students attended the annual memorial service to celebrate the lives of those residents who had died during the year. This year was the first year that our students had been invited to attend the ceremony. The behaviour of our students was exemplary. I was so proud of them. Two of them spontaneously paid a tribute to 2 of the residents that they knew through partnering them in golf. Their words were warmly received and welcomed by the families who spoke to the students after the service. As a finale, white balloons were released to mark this very special occasion. We watched them soar and drift away in the direction of Mornington Park Primary School. Perhaps one day we may find one.

Christmas Hampers: If you haven’t already put your name down to receive a Christmas Hamper from the Mornington and District Community Hamper Committee- 2013, and you would like one, then please see Val.

Visit to Mornington Secondary College Police Drum Corps Graduation Ceremony – Friday, 6th December. I will be taking 2 students from Grade 6 to represent Mornington Park Primary School. If previous years are anything to go by, then the students will really enjoy the experience and may even be tempted to join the Drum Corps when they go to MSC in 2014.

Val Coles,
Social Worker
HOT LUNCH ORDER FORM

Every **Tuesday** this term we will be serving a hot lunch for $2.00. For catering purposes we **MUST** have notices back by 4pm every Monday – please NO late orders.

**Next Tuesday 10th December 2013**, we will be serving:

Please complete the form below and return to school by 4pm Monday if you would like your child to have lunch.

Thank you for your support.  
Heather Christie

Name of Child __________________________________________ Grade _____

Amount enclosed ________    Allergies_________________________